

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Health Care Finance



D.C. MEDICAL CARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MCAC)

Location: Virtual Meeting via WebEx

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDEES:

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MEMBERS:

Sharra Greer, Children's Law Center
Suzanne Jackson, Health Rights Law Clinic
Mark LeVota, DC Behavioral Health Assoc.
Marie Morilus-Black, MBI Health Services
Chioma Oruh, Chi Bornfree
Justin Palmer, DC Hospital Association
Guy Durant
Veronica Sharpe, DCHCA
Tamara Smith, DCPCA
Amy Maisterra, DCPS
Barbara Bazron, DBH
Melisa Byrd, DHCF

GUESTS:

Ahna Millat
Alonda Jones, DHCF
Alyssa Kahn
Amelia Whitman, DHCF
April Grady, DHCF
Andrew Malcolm
Belina Zhang
Bill Hanna, DHCF
Brion Elliot, DHCF
Cavella Bishop, DHCF
Christine Dagostino
Charisse Vickerie
Christine DeAngelis
Claudia Schlosberg, Castle Hill Consulting
Cleveland Woodson
Colleen Sonosky, DHCF
Craig Umstead
Cyndy Snyder
DaShawn Groves, DHCF
DeJa Love, DHCF
Deniz Soyer, DHCF
Drena Lopez Duran
Dwight Mayes

Eric Colchamiro
Eric Scharf
Erin Holve, DHCF
Elizabeth Garrison, DHCF
Eugene Simms, DHCF
Felecia Stovall, DHCF
Fernando Casto Gomez
Garlinda Bryant, DHS
George Aloth
Heather Stowe, DACL
Jennifer Joyce
Joyce Speaks
Judith Levy, DC Coalition on Long Term Care
Karen Finn
Karyn Wills
Katie Rines, DHCF
Kelly-Ann Daniels, DHCF
Kerda DeHaan, DHCF
Kerri Kerr
Lauren Jones, DHCF
Lauren Ratner, DC Health
Lawrence Williams, DHCF
Leslie Lyles Smith, MedStar
Lisa Truitt, DHCF
Lorena Ortiz, DHCF
Lucy Ohiosikha, DHCF
Lynda Kelly, DHCF
Lyndsay Niles
Maria Alva, Georgetown University
Marlaina Bowens, DHCF
Mark Fracasso
Mia Olsen
Michelle Zancan
Melanie Williamson, DHCF
Monique Willard, DHCF
Nathaniel Curry, DHCF
Nikhil Holla, CareFirst
Nina Jolani, DHCF

Onari Jackson
Pam Riley, DHCF
Patricia Quinn, DCPCA
Rachel McLaughlin
Raelynn Schafer
Rita Torkzadeh, DHCF
Rohnda Roberts
Robert Hay Jr.
Sharon Henry
Sahar Takshi, AARP

Sherri Giorgio, Gilead
Stephanie Hafiz
Stephanie Taylor, HSCSN
Thomye Cave
Tina Petrus
Travis Auth, DHCF
Ian Paregol
Abigail Wolf Stanton

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Tamara Smith, MCAC Chair at 5:31pm.

II. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes for the June 23, 2021 MCAC were conditionally approved and are pending update.

III. Senior Deputy Director/Medicaid Director Report

a. DC Healthy Families Program Update

Melisa Byrd, DHCF Medicaid Director, presented two major updates with respect to the Medicaid Managed Care program. First, the mayor declared a health resources emergency to enable grant of emergency contracts to current MCOs on September 9, 2021. Second, Ms. Byrd provided information on DHCF's re-procurement of the DC Healthy Families managed care contract. Ms. Byrd indicated that the request for proposals is expected to be released in November 2021. A question from chat asked whether the MCO contracts would stay in play or lapse given the DC Council's disapproval resolution and therefore would providers expect to bill DHCF directly for services provided to beneficiaries. Ms. Byrd responded that such changes were not expected as a result of the disapproval resolution. Ms. Smith asked if there was a position on the legislative solution offered by the Council. Ms. Byrd stated that she had no comment on the proposed solution. Ian Paregol asked whether the District was at stake of losing access to federal matching funds as a result of managed care changes. Ms. Byrd stated that she did not expect the District to lose matching funds. *(The presentation is available on DHCF's Website on the MCAC webpage. The presentation is located under the September 2021 MCAC Meeting Agenda and Materials link.)*

b. Long Term Services and Supports: D-SNP and PACE

Katherine Rogers, Acting Director, Long Term Care Administration, presented the LTSS Update. Ms. Rogers presented on the pending dual special needs plan D-SNP expansion and the launch of the District's first Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) program. Ms. Rogers states that the PACE program would primarily serve individuals meeting nursing facility level of care, ages 55 or older, who live in Wards 7 and 8. Ms. Rogers presented information on the two separate launch timelines and expected milestones. Both programs are expected to launch in calendar year 2022. A question asked where the public could review the request for qualification for D-SNP procurement. Ms. Rogers stated that the relevant information was available on the Office of Contracting and Procurement. *(The presentation is available on DHCF's Website on the MCAC webpage. The presentation is located under the September 2021 MCAC Meeting Agenda and Materials link.)*

c. Eligibility Update

Ms. Byrd provided information on three major eligibility updates. Ms. Byrd informed the MCAC that Alliance and Immigrant Children's Program renewals are restarting given the conclusion of the local public health emergency. Ms. Byrd stated that there was no longer an interview/face to face requirement for Alliance recertifications and that an online option for recertification would be available on October 1, 2021. Second, Ms. Byrd stated that Alliance and ICP would be included in the District Direct launch in November and once that happened Alliance and ICP eligibility would be determined in accordance with the Modified Adjusted Gross Income methodology. Finally, Ms. Byrd provided information on the Special Immigrant Visa status for incoming Afghan refugees in the District. *(The presentation is available on DHCF's Website on the MCAC webpage. The presentation is located under the September 2021 MCAC Meeting Agenda and Materials link.)*

d. District Direct Upcoming Release

Melanie Williamson, Chief of Staff, provided information on the upcoming launch of District Direct, the District's integrated-application system. Ms. Williamson clarified that DHCF would be focusing on trainings and public information sessions as the District neared launch. Ms. Williamson reiterated that the goal of the District Direct system was to process all applications through the updated system to answer a question from the meeting chat.

e. COVID-19 Beneficiary Vaccine Update

Dr. Pamela Riley, Medical Director on beneficiary vaccination rates and vaccine relation communication efforts. Dr. Riley stated that as of as of September 2021, 44% of all DHCF beneficiaries age 12+ have received at least one COVID vaccination. Dr. Riley shared that DHCF has taken several steps to improve vaccination rates for beneficiaries including partnering with and outreach vendor to conduct direct outreach to unvaccinated Medicaid fee-for-service beneficiaries. *(The presentation is available on DHCF's Website on the MCAC webpage. The presentation is located under the September 2021 MCAC Meeting Agenda and Materials link.)*

f. ARPA Section 9817 Update

Eugene Simms, Special Assistant, presented on DHCF's implementation of ARPA Section 9817 initial spending plan. CMS issued partial approval of District's initial spending plan effective August 31, 2021. Mr. Simms concluded by offering stakeholders the option to email questions comments on ARPA Section 9817 his email, eugene.simms@dc.gov. *(The presentation is available on DHCF's Website on the MCAC webpage. The presentation is located under the September 2021 MCAC Meeting Agenda and Materials link.)*

g. Enrollment Snapshot

April Grady, Associate Director, Division of Analytics and Policy Research, provided an update on enrollment. *(Enrollment reports are available on the DHCF Website on the MCAC webpage.)*

IV. Subcommittee Reports

a. Long Term Services and Supports

The update was provided by Veronica Sharpe. The workgroup last met on September 15, 2021.

b. Eligibility & Enrollment

Eric Scharf provided the update. The workgroup last met on August 18, 2021.

c. Access

Robert Hay Jr. provided the update. The workgroup last met on August 8, 2021. Mr. Hay requested that the bad weather be noted for the minutes.

d. Health Care Re-Design

Tamara Smith provided the update. The workgroup last met on September 1, 2021.

V. New Business

a. Request for Applications

Ms. Smith and Mr. Simms presented on the request for application for new applicants. Ms. Smith encouraged all members and guests to encourage individuals to apply for membership for fiscal year 2022.

b. Subcommittee Chairs

Ms. Smith appointed Mark Levota to Chair of the Health Care System Re-Design subcommittee.

c. MCAC Planning for the New Fiscal Year

Mr. Simms informed the MCAC that the new schedule and new member list would be updated on the website in the coming weeks.

VI. Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no public comments.

VII. Announcements

There were no announcements.

VIII. Adjournment

Ms. Smith adjourned the meeting at 6:32pm.